

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A seed tape (1) including successively arranged germinating units (1a, 1b, 1c), and which further includes at least one carrier strip (2,4) as well as at least one layer (3) of biodegradable, gas-permeable material which is flexible and non-woven and arranged on said carrier strip, ~~whereby the layer (3) is optionally locally interrupted a short distance along the seed tape, and~~ whereby each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) includes a mixture of carrier (7), at least one additive (8) which is water-absorbing and ~~optionally an adjuvant (9) in addition to one or more seeds (10), as well as whereby said seed tape is optionally cut into separate germinating units prior to the irrigation and/or the bedding out,~~ characterised in that the layer (3) of biodegradable, gas-permeable material which is flexible and non-woven, and is made of polylactide (PLA) or a material including said polylactide, or is made of rayon, viscose or polylactide plus starch.

Claim 2 (original): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the PLA-fibres present a slightly creased structure.

Claim 3 (original): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that super absorbing polymer (SAP) grains or SAP fibres (8) are arranged around and adjacent the seed (10), said SAP grains or SAP fibres being retained by means of an adhesive effect resulting from an ultrasound or heat treatment of the non-woven material.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, characterised in

that the carrier strip (2, 4) is made of PLA, ~~such as non-woven PLA.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended) A seed tape as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1-4~~
claim 1, characterised in that the non-woven PLA material (3) presents a needle structure
and is structured as a 10 sandwich with three crossed layers, where the middle layer includes
relatively thin fibres and the two outer layers include fibres being thicker than the fibres of the
middle layer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 3, in which the SAP grains or
SAP fibres (8) are retained adjacent the seed (10), characterised in that said grains or
fibres are 15 retained by being glued onto the non-woven layer (3) by means of additional glue;
preferably
biodegradable natural glue, such as a starch, gelatine or sugar-based glue.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1~~
~~to 6~~ claim 1, characterised in that each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) is delimited by
two spaced transverse spot or I line weldings (16), and that at least two relatively short
auxiliary weldings (17) are provided between the spot or line weldings (16), said
auxiliary weldings projecting 5 inwards from the side edges (18) of each seed tape and
being of a length (a); of 0.05 to 0.20 times the width (b) of the seed tape.

Claim 8 (original): A seed tape as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that
the spot or line weldings are provided at a temperature of 70 to 110°C.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1~~
~~to 6~~ claim 1, characterized 10 in that the fibres of each non-woven layer (3) are

of a length of 5 to 9 cm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterised in that the biodegradable, gas-permeable, flexible, non-woven layer (3) is formed by a row of pockets (3') of non-woven polylactide (PLA) fastened to the carrier strip (2') at an equidistant distance, and where each pocket includes a seed.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in 20 that the flexible non-woven PLA layer (3) is of a weight of 10 to 40 g/m².

Claim 12 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 11, and where the seeds are ~~preferably~~ sugar beet seeds, characterised in that each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) is delimited by a circumferential welded seam (26), which is locally interrupted in order to provide an opening (27) through which radicles and seedlings can advance.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, characterised in that that it contains paper-like pieces (21a, 23, 27a) produced by placing ~~paper pulp, optionally~~ cellulose fibres, SAP-crystals (8) and grains of carrier (7) and adjuvants (9) ~~for instance~~ on the surface of a suction cylinder by means of air.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 13, characterised in that the adjuvants (9), ~~such as pesticides~~, are placed in a small capsule (22) in each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~
~~claim 1~~, characterised in that the flexible non-woven PLA-layer (3) presents a suction
capacity of 0 to 30 mm, ~~for instance 5 to 15 mm.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1,
characterised in that the water-absorbing additive or additives (8), ~~such as SAP~~
including SAP, and ~~optionally~~ adjuvants (9), ~~such as~~ including pesticides, can be absorbed in or
adhered to a blotting paper piece (27) ~~optionally~~ provided with a plastic coating, ~~such as a~~
~~PLA-coating~~, for a slow release of additive and/or adjuvant, said blotting paper piece (27) being
placed inside each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) and ~~for instance~~ resulting from a cutting off from a
high speed-produced roll of blotting paper, ~~such as~~ at 500 m/min, where the above
water-absorbing additive (8) and adjuvant (9), if any, are sucked into or glued onto said blotting
paper piece.

Claim 17 (new): A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer (30 is locally
interrupted a short distance along the seed tape, each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) includes an
adjuvant (9), and each seed tape is cut into separate germinating units prior to the irrigation and/or
the bedding out.

Claim 18 (new): A seed tape according to claim 15 wherein the suction capacity is 5 to 15
mm.